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ABSTRACT

This book provides a guide for early childhood educators in implementing and using portfolio assessment to measure children's learning. Chapter 1 focuses on, "How Young Children Learn." It explains that children are active learners who learn by doing things repeatedly, by making mistakes, and by being exposed to varying approaches, materials, and experiences. Chapter 2 focuses on, "The Advantages of Portfolio Assessment." This chapter suggests that portfolio assessment shows growth over time, focuses on what is right about a child, and gives children an opportunity to be part of the assessment process. Chapter 3 covers "Building Portfolios" and discusses collecting work samples from each child, including audiotape recordings, videotape recordings, activity charts, checklists, and samples of writing, painting, and reading logs. Chapter 4 explores "Anecdotal Records." These records are defined as stories of what the child does in the classroom and must be factual, free of opinion, and non-judgmental. Specific formats and information to include in the records are detailed. The final chapter focuses on "Using the Portfolio" to gather and convey information about a child's learning, inform families and keep them involved, and transfer important information to children's future teachers. Contains references and a list of resources. (SD)

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